A
LETTER
OR
WORD OF ADVICE
TO THE
SAINTS
Known or unknown.

By Thomas Hickes, *the elder*.

Decemb. 2d

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MVSEVM
BRITAN
NICVM

A word of advice to the Saints known or unknown.

I Thought it good, my loving brethren, whom I love in ſincerity of heart, in and for Chriſt Jeſus ſake, and all the Saints univerſal and militant here upon earth, and therefore I thought it good to ſpeak a word of advice to the Saints out of the Word of God, which the true Saints will be williug to hear, about Baptizing of Children, and the Sacrament of the Lords Supper, of the Baptiſm of Children.

Firſt, in the laſt Chapter of Saint *Matthew*, the nineteenth Verſe: our Saviour commands his Apoſtles to go teach all Nations, baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and the *Son*, and of the Holy Ghoſt, a general command to all Nations, teaching them to obſerve all things that Chriſt Jeſus commanded them now. Chriſt Jeſus had taught them that they ſhould not keep little children from him, he was diſpleaſed when they did; and he commanded them to be bronght unto him, and he laid his hands on them, and bleſt them; and ſaid of ſuch is the kingdom of heaven; let us obey Chriſt Jeſus command, and be charitable to the ſouls of our little children, and bring them to Chriſt's Congregations to be baptized and prayed for. The words of our Saviour Chriſt Jeſus in the third of Saint *John*, the fifth Verſe, Chriſt Jeſus ſaith, Verily, verily I ſay unto you, Except a man be born of Water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the Kingdome of God. This verily, verily, of our Saviour ſhould make the upright hearted Saints to be careful of the ſouls of their children, and to have them baptized and prayed for.

Was the Lord about to kill *Moſes*, for not Circumcizing his ſon, which was the Jewiſh covenant, and will not God be angry with you for neglecting the Covenant of Grace in the ſeventeenth Chapter of *Geneſis*, the ſecond Verſe, And God ſaid unto *Abraham*, thou ſhalt keep my Covenant therefore, and thy ſeed after thee in their generations, the tenth Verſe. This is my Covenant which you ſhall keep between me and you, every male childe among you ſhall be circumcized, and you ſhall circumcize the fleſh of your fore ſkins, and it ſhall be a token of the Covenant between me and you, and he that is eight dayes old ſhall be circumcized, every man-childe in your generations, he that is born in thy houſe, or bought with money of any ſtranger which is not of thy ſeed, he that is born in thy houſe, and he that is bought with money muſt needs be circumcized, and my Covenant ſhall be in your fleſh for an everlaſting Covenant; fourteen Verſe. And the uncircumcized man childe, whoſe fleſh of his fore-ſkin is not circumcized, that ſoul ſhall be cut off from his people, he hath broken my Covenant. Now you ſee this heavie burthen which was laid on the people of God before Chriſt, but now taken away by the Covenant of grace; the fifteenth of the Acts and the eleventh Verſe, But we believe that through the

the grace of the Lord Jeſus, we ſhall be ſaved as well as they, now God forbid, but that our Children ſhould be within the Covenant of grace as well as we; 1 *Corinthians* the ſeventh Chapter and the fourteenth Verſe, Saint *Paul* ſaith, The children of Believers are holy; the ſecond Commandement, God will ſhew mercy unto thouſands of them that love him and keep his Commandements. The hundred and ſecond Pſalme, the laſt Verſe, the children of thy ſervants ſhall continue, and their ſeed ſhall be eſtabliſhed for ever. The hundred and third Pſalm, the ſeventeenth Verſe, But the mercy of the Lord is from everlaſting to everlaſting, upon them that fear him, and his righteouſneſs unto childrens children.

The Lord ſanctified the Prophet *Jeremiah* from his mothers wombe, and the Lord loved King *Solomon* when he was a childe, in the 14 Chapter of the firſt Book of *Kings*. And all *Iſrael* ſhall mourn for him, and bury him, For he only of *Jeroboam* ſhall come to the grave, becauſe in him is ſome good things toward the Lord God of *Iſrael*. But again, obſerve the new covenant *Hebrews* the eighth Chapter, and the eighth Verſe, Behold, the day is come ſaith the Lord, When I will make a new Covenant with the houſe of *Iſrael*, and the houſe of *Judah*; the tenth Verſe. For this is the Covenant that I will make with the houſe of *Iſrael*, after thoſe dayes, ſaith the Lord, I will put my laws into their minds, and write them in their hearts, and I will be to them a God, and they ſhall be to me a people. Why, then let us have a care to have our children baptized, Gods promiſe is to us and to our children. Our Saviour Chriſt Jeſus ſhed both water and blood for our ſins upon the croſs, let us then bring our children to be baptized, and let the parents and the Congrega-

gregagation pray, that their ſins of original guiltineſs be waſhed away, and nothing doubting of the mercy of our heavenly Father in Chriſt Jeſus, he called them unto him, and whoſoever received the Kingdom of Heaven, muſt receive it as a little childe, and ſo I leave of writing of this firſt Sacrament, deſiring God to bleſs his good Word unto us.

And now I come to write ſomething of the Sacrament of the Lord Supper, of which I am confident, there are many thouſands about this City of *London*, that have not received it this ſeven or eight yeers: this forceth me in love to write to the Churches of Chriſt Jeſus, to remember them of theſe two Sacraments, which Chriſt Jeſus hath left for our good to remember his death, until he come to judge the quick and the dead. It is a ſoul devouring ſin to deſpiſe and undervalue the Sacrament of the Lords Supper.

All the Families of Gods people, the *Jews* were by God commanded to eat the Paſchal Lambe, the twelfth Chapter of *Exodus* the third verſe. This Paſchal Lambe was but a type and figure of Chriſt Jeſus the Lambe of God, which taketh away the ſins of the World. Chriſt is the living bread which came down from heaven, If any man eat of this Bread, he ſhall live for ever, and the bread that I will give is my fleſh, which I will give for the life of the World, The ſixth of Saint *John* the 52, 53. Then Jeſus ſaid unto them, Verily, verily, I ſay unto you, Except ye eat the fleſh of the Son of man, and drink his bloud, you have no life in you. For my fleſh is meat indeed, and my bloud is drink indeed. Who ſo eateth my fleſh and drinketh my bloud, hath eternal life, and I will raiſe him up at the laſt day, 63 verſe, It is the Spirit that quickeneth the fleſh profiteth nothing, the words that I ſpeak unto you, they are ſpirit, and they are life, in the 26 Chapter of S. *Matthew*, and the 26, 27 verſes, and when they were eating, Jeſus took bread and bleſſed it, & brake it, and gave it to his Diſciples, and ſaid, Take, eat, This is my body, and he took the Cup, and gave thanks, and gave it unto them, ſaying, Drink ye all of it. For this is my bloud of the New Teſtament which is ſhed for many, for the remiſſion of ſins, in Saint *Luke* the 22 Chapter, 19 and 20 verſes, and he took bread and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave it unto them, ſaying, This is my body which is given for you, This do in remembrance of me, likewiſe alſo the Cup after Supper, ſaying, This Cup is the New Teſtament, in my blood which is ſhed for you. The 14 Chapter of Saint *Mark*, the 22 and 23 verſes, and as he did eat, Jeſus took bread and bleſſed it, and brake it, and gave to them, and ſaid, Take, eat, This is my body, and he took the Cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave to them, and they all drank of it, and he ſaid, This is my bloud of the New Teſtament, which is ſhed for many, Chriſt Jeſus hath ſhed his bloud for many: then come dear brethren, to the table of the Lord Jeſus with faith and repentance. Come to the Word of God preached by his Miniſters, their lips will increaſe thy knowledge. Read the Word of God, and try your faith, pray with humility often. Uſe all Gods Ordinances as well as one. Let the weak in faith come to the *Sacrament* as well as the ſtrong, the *Sacrament* is a ſoul ſtrengthening Ordinance, it is a growing Ordinance, it is an Ordinance if it be quickened with the ſpirit of faith, it ſeals and aſſures us of the forgiveneſſe of all onr ſins, then let not houſ-keepers neglect it ſeven or eight yeers together, but prepare themſelves, and let not young men and maids ſtay till they are five and twenty yeers old, and never prepare themſelves to receive the *Sa*cramment, and ſo become ſottiſh and fooliſh in ſpiritual things: therefore I humbly deſire and requeſt the Miniſters and Over-ſeers of Pariſhes and Churches to have a care of the ſouls of theſe people, ſome hath more then others, the Lord reward them, in *S. Matthew* the 20 Chapter and the ninth verſe, Chriſt ſaith to his Miniſters, Go yee therefore into the high-wayes, and as many as you finde bring them to the Marriage: ſo thoſe ſervants went out into high-wayes, and gathered all, as many as they found both bad and good, and the Wedding was furniſhed with gueſts, and when the King came to ſee the gueſts, he ſaw there a man which had not on a wedding garment. Chriſt knows beſt the wicked and ungodly men, let not us judge our brother where we have no witneſs, and do not know nothing onr ſelves. If ſinful *Zacheus*, or ſinful *Mary Magdalen*, will come to their Father with faith, love, and repentance; let us not be like the elder brother of the Prodigal ſon to grudge at it, *Luke* 15.28 verſe. Ho, every one that thirſteth, come ye to the water of life, and he that hath no money, come ye bny and eat, come buy wine and milk without money, and without price, *Eſay* 50.1. Our *S*aviour Chriſt came to ſeek & ſave them that were loſt, and there is joy in heaven of on ſinner that repenteth, then let us forſake our ſins, and ſeek out the communion of *S*aints, and minde heavenly reſt and joy more then we have. God ſo loved the world that he gave his only begotten *S*on for it, that whoſoever believed in him might not periſh, but have everlaſting life and happineſs: to the which everlaſting life, the Lord God of his infinite mercy bring us through Jeſus Chriſt. *Amen.*

FINIS.

Numb: 181.

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Mercurius Politicus.

Compriſing the ſum of all Intelligence, with the Affairs and Deſigns now on foot in the three *Nations* OF ENGLAND, IRELAND, & SCOTLAND.

In defence of the Commonwealth, and for Information of the People.

P.P. London
K.

——— *Ità vertere Seria.* { Horat. de Ar. Poet.

From *Thurſday* Novem 24. to *Thurſday* Decemb. 2. 1653.

From Dalkeith, Novemb. 16.

YOu had laſt week an account of the boldneſs of the *Highland Tories*, who made an excurſion as far as *Falkirk*, and ſurprized there two of our Captains belonging to Col. *Scroops* Regiment, They ſurprized alſo two of our Troopers, as they were by night paſſing between *Kilſythe* and *Glaſgow*, with Orders for that Gariſon.

The Earl of *Seaford* hath certainly adjoyned himſelf to theſe Rovers, who take heart thereupon, ſuppoſing more of the Nobility will follows, and therefore they make bold to break out in ſeveral parts, and ſummon in the Countrey-people, all that are able to bear Arms; and this is